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June 27, 2018

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The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Ranking Member, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Roberts and Ranking Member Stabenow,

The United States Forest Service is in a very critical situation at this time. The absence of a confirmed USDA Undersecretary for the Natural Resources and Environment mission area has put the Agency at a major disadvantage, especially as we face yet another severe wildfire season. President Donald Trump nominated James Hubbard for this position for which he is extremely well qualified.

The National Association of Forest Service Retirees (NAFSR) has serious concerns that Mr. Hubbard's confirmation hearing has not even been scheduled yet. As a retiree association, our membership is located in almost every state, totaling thousands of years of experience, and we strive to stay current on national issues important to America's forests. We urge you to schedule the hearing and support Mr. Hubbard's nomination to this important position as soon as possible.

Mr. Hubbard has unquestionable qualifications for this Undersecretary position. He is widely respected and highly regarded nationwide for his experience, wisdom, and leadership skills in the management of National Forests, State Forests, Tribal Forests, and private forests. He is trusted and respected in every aspect of natural resource management. The Administration, USDA, and the Forest Service will be very fortunate to have Mr. Hubbard as Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this important request. We look forward to helping your committee in any way that we can.

Sincerely,

*James L. Caswell*

James L. Caswell, Chair  
National Association of Forest Service Retirees

*Larry R. Payne*

Larry R. Payne, Vice-Chairman  
National Association of Forest Service Retirees

cc: Acting Chief of the Forest Service  
Secretary of Agriculture